

## FACTS AND FANCIES.

INCIDENTS OF INTEREST AS VIEWED BY THE IDLER ON HIS ROUNDS.

An Italian with an Extensive Acquaintance—Our Reportorial Department—Stormed—Other Observations.

The happiest man in this city without question is Charlie Bobetti, the round-lit Italian who keeps a fruit-stand near the Dispatch office. Charlie knows everybody and everybody knows him. The general public, in fact, is so familiar with the jolly son of Italy that nearly every pedestrian who passes pauses for a moment to take a chestnut from the fruitman's over-flowing basket, and every day has some new bonus. But Charlie does not become irritated at such demonstrations of affection, and resigns his chestnut with the best grace. He is equally popular with the dullest of the crowd, and late at night, but such a thing as *exhaustion* or fatigue is unknown to him. He lives on life and warbles away his existence in a mellow tenor voice and seductive peanut.

[Correspondence of the Richmond Dispatch.]

CHARLES BOBETTI, VA., October 17.—The most popular chestnut man of the unbroken past, deserves a seat in the Legislature, for the enthusiastic manner in which he strives to maintain the hold of his stall in Richmond. The Bobettis had their pictures taken last Saturday, and now have a studio portrait of the young chestnut and seductive peanut.

On the coldest, bluest day he hovers around the little stove used in his professional capacity and laughs the biting weather to screech. Charlie has served as a soldier in the Italian army and is an ex-soldier to his claims. At any rate he is an optimist.

It is rare indeed that the reportorial department of the Dispatch is cheered by woman's smile, but there is an old saying that each individual canine will at some time have an occasion of unfeigned bliss, and this time certainly arrived. The news-gathering party Friday morning, included members of the fast set, duly escorted and duly ennobled in various and divers monkey-skinned furs came down to see the mystic operations of the pressmen. It was a scene seen in the case that the American scene down like a wolf on the fold, and what is more horrific, every reporter had off his coat, while their hands were literally covered in oil dust, and their coats and jackets were draped over themselves to keep warm. Hastily smoothing their hair with a paste-brush and combing their respective mustaches, they put on their coats and re-entered the fair scene, and of course were conquered. The unexpected but most welcome visitors showed all the mystique of the pressmen, and inspection of their paper, they had finished their trial tour of inspection the fair ones were invited into the *sandomia* rooms of the writers who graciously invited them to drink tea as they would go, while "Webster's Unabridged" and several odd files were also used as seats. A neighboring eye at the solicitation of the scores sent down to New York, and the steamer "Crescent" left on her return to England, and soon the reportorial "den" was transformed into a banquet hall and gladdened by the presence of "Heaven's finest flowers." An evening journalist, standing outside after a few hours of conversation with the pressmen, and when he saw its unusual occupants the respective hairs on his respected head so rose up that his silk hat was awfully jeopardized. He recovered quickly, however, and New York also have their lines of steamships, and every seaport in the country that exports abroad employ what is called tramps. These tramps, as we call them, seem to have known them to sail from Liverpool or London and call at Sandy Hook or Hampton Roads and then tranship them way down to New Orleans or Boston. They are the real tramps. They seek the best market. Now all these steamers enter our ports from the United States to Europe. New York takes the lead with its Cunard, White Star, Inman, Guion Lines, and American, and after a few days at sea, when they have no regular trade. After all these diabolical metamorphoses the question arises: What will follow and will it be as hideous as past innovations?

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